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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 22, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 17 totaled an estimated 18.8 billion ton-miles, 1.2 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 42 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 752.0 billion ton-miles, 1.7 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 17 totaled 435,551 cars, 3.2 percent below 1980, but 0.7 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.2 percent in the East, but down 1.7 percent in the South and 7.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings totaled 137,668, up 18.8 percent from last year.

Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended October 10 totaled 35,474 cars, up 6.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 64,806 trailers and/or containers, up 10.0 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 41 weeks of the year was 1,340,382 cars, 1.9 percent higher than last year, and 2,432,089 trailers and/or containers, 1.8 percent higher than last year.

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